

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
US Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice,

Recent events at the United Nations offer hope that its decades-old discrimination against the State of Israel may be coming to an end. This past fall, an Israeli ambassador presided over the General Assembly for the first time in its history, and Israel was allowed to submit its first resolution to the body. A year ago, the Secretary-General of the United Nations admitted "that the United Nations' record on anti-Semitism has at times fallen short of our ideals." For the past few years Israel has been able to participate in the substantive work of the UN through its commissions, councils, and other decision-making committees. However, Israel is still not a full member of the UN, with the rights accorded to any other member. Its right to join in the decision-making and information sharing of the premier world body is only temporary, and we urge you to put the strength of the US behind remedying this wrong.

When Israel was admitted to the United Nations in 1949, it joined 59 other nations in declaring its commitment to the ideals embodied in the UN Charter. In the 57 years following, nation after nation has joined the UN but Israel has been the only one subject to a special, limited status. With its temporary ascension into the Western Europe and Others group (WEOG) in 2000, Israel's ambassadors gained the right to serve as voting members of any United Nations commission, council or other decision-making committees. However, this right is limited to meetings convened in New York – not those in Geneva, Paris, Nairobi, Vienna, or Rome. Israel's agreement with the WEOG requires it to submit an application for membership to the Asian Group each year. Furthermore, despite its recent request to be the WEOG applicant for the Security Council, its right to be included in the WEOG rotation cycle is still unclear. No other nation is subjected to any of these restrictions.

This endemic unfairness - submitting Israel to one set of standards and the rest of the world to another - must end. This double-standard against the State of Israel is counterproductive to the stated goals of the United Nations to encourage global security, to affirm human rights, to establish justice and the rule of law, and to promote social progress. The United States should not stand for such treatment of any nation, particularly one which has been a steadfast friend and primary strategic ally in the Middle East. The exclusion of Israel from the working bodies of the UN contributes to support of resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel, a practice which the House of Representatives recently called for an end to in a nearly unanimous vote on H.Res. 438.

In 2004, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H Res. 615, calling for President Bush to direct the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations to press for full and permanent membership of Israel, and included similar directives in this year's UN Reform Bill and in Foreign Operations appropriations bills in the past several years. While we applaud Ambassador Bolton's recent statements regarding anti-Semitism at the UN, we believe more must be done. We urge you to apply all possible diplomatic pressure to ensure that Israel is accorded full rights in the United Nations in accordance with this legislation and with the call to fairness that is evident in this cause.

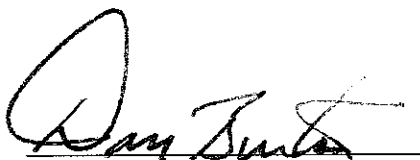
Signed,



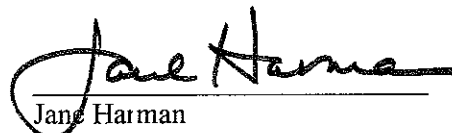
Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress



Mike Pence
Member of Congress



Dan Burton
Member of Congress



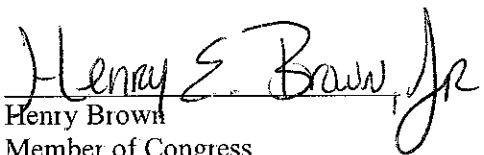
Jane Harman
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Henry Brown
Member of Congress



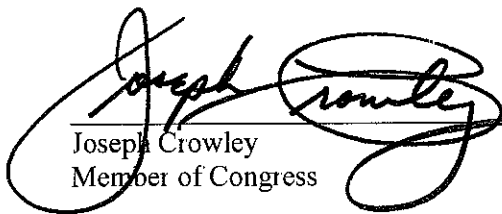
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



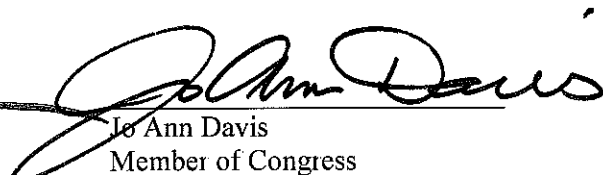
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



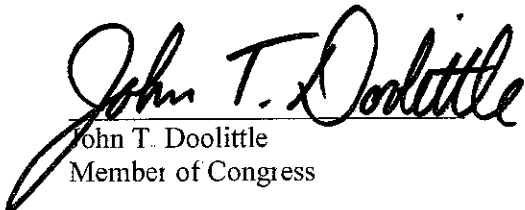
Mark Souder
Member of Congress



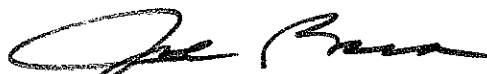
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Lois Ann Davis
Member of Congress



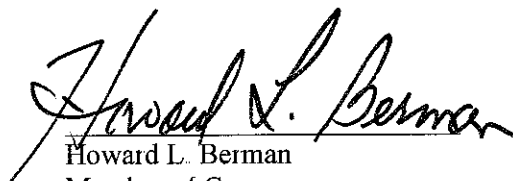
John T. Doolittle
Member of Congress



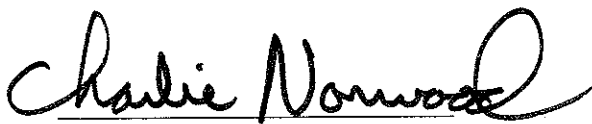
Joe Baca
Member of Congress



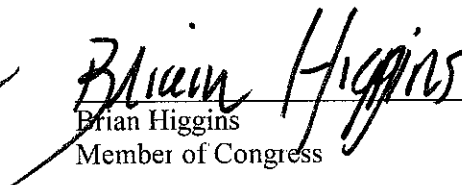
Scott Garrett
Member of Congress




Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



Charlie Norwood
Member of Congress



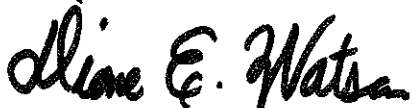
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress




Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



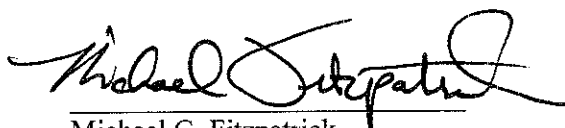
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



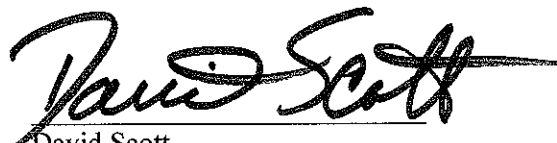
Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress




Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress




Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

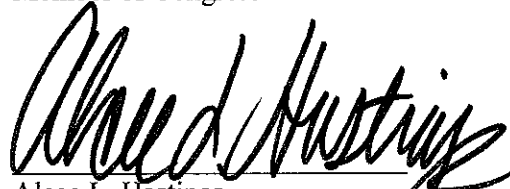



David Scott
Member of Congress



Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress

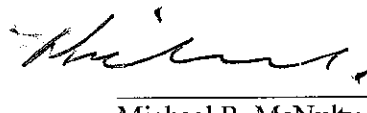

Tom DeLay
Member of Congress

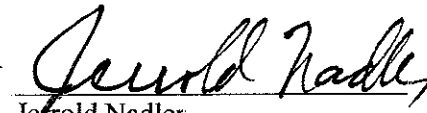

Chris Cannon
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

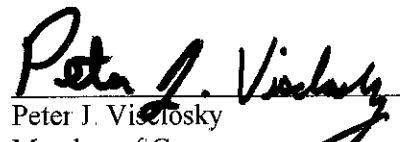

Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress

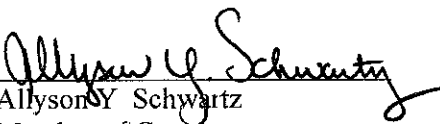

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

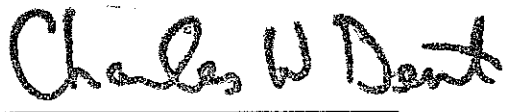

Jim Marshall
Member of Congress


Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress


Mark Kirk
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Henry Waxman
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Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

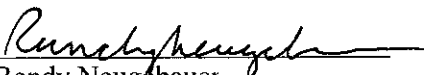

Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

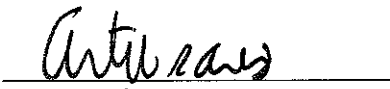

Charles F. Bass
Member of Congress

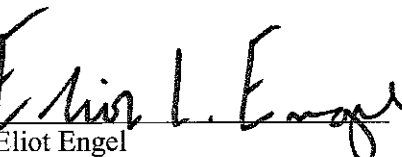

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress


Ellen Tauscher
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

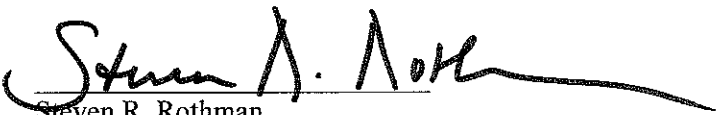

Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

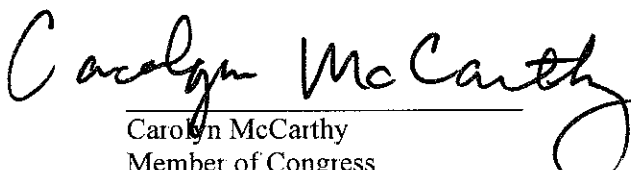

Artur Davis
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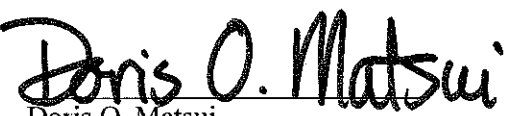

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress


Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

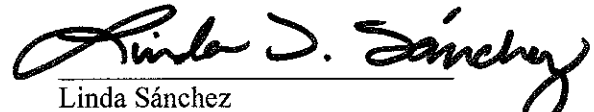

Ted Poe
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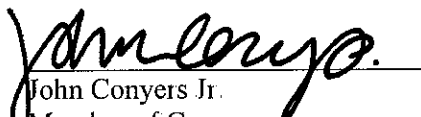

Steven R. Rothman
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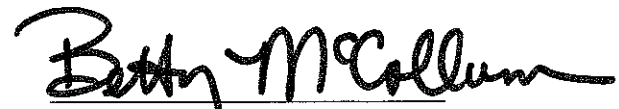

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Katherine Harris
Member of Congress



Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

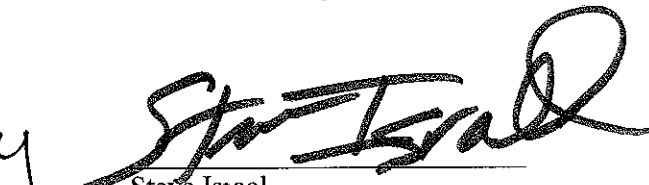

Ben Chandler
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

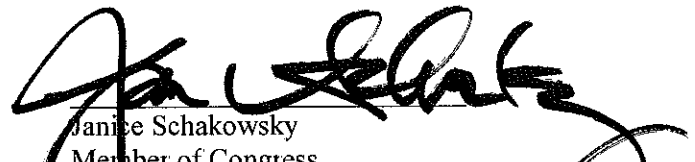

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

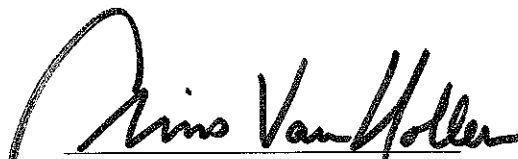

Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress

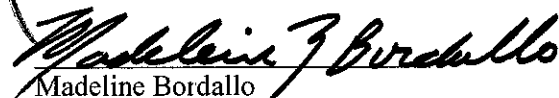

Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

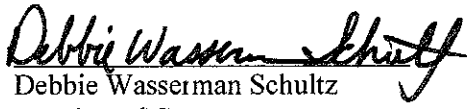

Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress

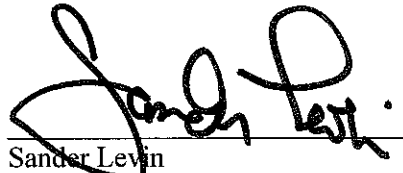

Janise Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

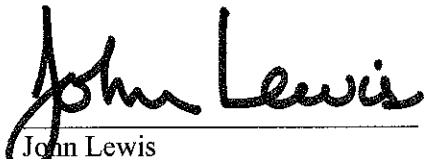

Madeline Bordallo
Member of Congress

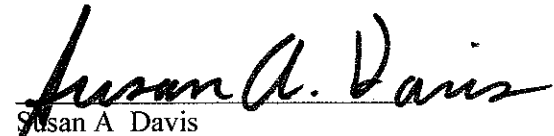

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

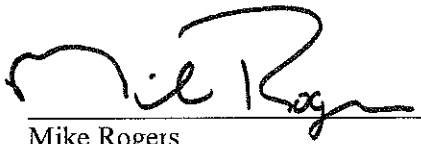

Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

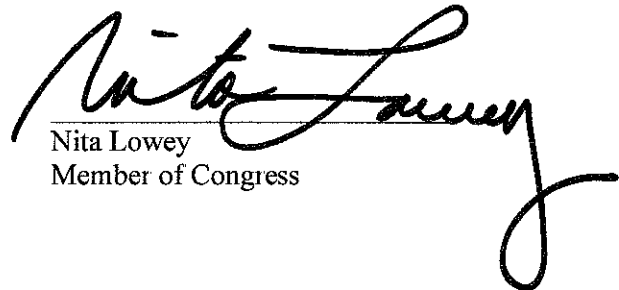

Sander Levin
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress


Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress


Mike Rogers
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Nita Lowey
Member of Congress